

PROJECT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT

Project ATLAS 2010 – City of Paterson is collaboration between the New Jersey Secretary of State's Office of Faith Based Initiatives (OFBI) and two of its capacity building providers, Richard Boris Management Developers and the Center for Nonprofit Corporations. **Project ATLAS'** grassroots collaborators in the City of Paterson are the Passaic County Workforce Investment Board (WIB)/One Stop Center and Passaic Community College.

Paterson, New Jersey is the Passaic County seat. Located on the Passaic River, it has a rich history as the Nation's first planned industrial city with some of the country's oldest textile mills and businesses. Today, Paterson is the second most densely populated large city in the nation with a population of 100,000 or more, ranking second only to New York City. As of March 2009, the unemployment rate in Paterson was 16.4%, nearly double the national 8% average. 2007 median income was \$32,778 at which time the homeless count revealed 1,062 chronically homeless people living on Paterson's streets.

OFBI is lead agency for this CCF Demonstration Program under the leadership of Executive Director, Edward LaPorte. In a recent study conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. which commissioned by the US Department of Health and Human Services (*December 2008*) OFBI was cited for its promising practices as **one of the most "active and effective" Faith Based Initiatives nationwide** and one of only three sites studied that uses a "CCF-like model" of capacity building, training and organization infrastructure development.

The goals **Project ATLAS – Paterson are to:** assure a profound, measurable and lasting impact on the sustainability of Paterson's nonprofit faith and community-based organizations (FBCOs) and FBCO community; and develop a demonstration model for FBCO sustainability that may be replicated in other communities. The program approach includes organization sustainability sub-awards to 20 Paterson FBCOs ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 including customized, one-on-one capacity building coaching; training and technical assistance to an additional 50 FBCOs; and a collaboration with the Passaic County WIB/One-Stop to develop and disseminate an electronic asset map that will help FBCOs connect people in need with existing social services and other resources.

ATLAS' proven approach to FBCO capacity building combines experiential training and technical assistance with intensive, individualized capacity building coaching to assess and improve FBCO leadership, organization, program and community engagement effectiveness. The program creates multiple opportunities for FBCO leaders to develop mutually supportive peer/mentor relationships, partnerships and collaborations that strengthen both individual FBCO capacity and that of the entire system to deliver quality social services. Based on the thesis that strong leaders build strong organizations **ATLAS'** experience demonstrates that FBCO leaders work with professional coaches to create real change in their organizations and communities.

The total project budget for this CCF Demonstration Program is \$625,000 representing a \$500,000 ACF request and \$125,000 OFBI match of cash and in-kind resources.